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ILLITERACY BEATEN IN YAKUT ASSR;  
INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE GROWING

V. A. Protodyakonov

Soviet Yakutiya is a convincing example of the success of Soviet policy in regard to nationalities. It represents the transformation of an oppressed Tsarist colony into a prosperous Soviet republic. Hundreds of enterprises and new branches of industry such as the coal, lumber, fishing, construction, and food industries have sprung up. Production in 1948 was 17 percent higher than before the war.

Leading Yakut industries have declined to accept government subsidies, and in 1948 gave the State more than 30 million rubles in above-plan accumulations. For 1949 they have promised to speed the turnover of working capital and thereby release 15 million rubles to the national economy.

Agriculture is rapidly developing in the republic, particularly in cattle-raising, its basic branch. The prewar horned-cattle population has been increased 8.9 percent. The ground has been laid for further development in deer and horse breeding. A great deal has been done to bring new land under cultivation. In the last 2 years, 17 power stations have been built and put into operation in the villages. The kolkhozes met the 1948 plan ahead of schedule and gave the State 113,000 pud of meat, 178,000 pud of milk and 207,000 pud more grain than in 1947.

Railroads, transport, and communications are developing. During the years of Soviet power, the waterways have doubled in extent, the river fleet has expanded 10-fold, and hundreds of kilometers of automobile roads, which are usable the year round, have been built.

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Housing has increased 6-fold, and in 1949 important construction was begun for communal housing and civic improvements in the city of Yakutsk. Particular success has been achieved in the building of social and cultural institutions. Before the revolution, the republic had 38 medical institutions with a total personnel of 50, 173 schools and 274 teachers. Tuberculosis, trachoma and other diseases were widespread. Only 2 percent of the population was literate. The republic now has 837 medical institutions, more than 2,000 medical workers and 616 schools having more than 60,000 students and 3,000 teachers. It has 15 technical schools and special secondary schools, pedagogical and normal institutes. Yakutiya is now a completely literate republic. More than 350 young Yakuts are studying in the higher educational institutions of Central Russia.

There are 579 cultural and educational institutions in the Yakut ASSR. The Yakutsk Theater of Drama and Music, the Russian Theater and the kolkhoz theaters are performing with success. Works by Lenin, Stalin, Marx and Engels have been printed in the Yakut language, as well as some of the best Russian classics. Yakut writers and artists are coming to the fore.

In 1947, the Academy of Sciences USSR established a scientific and research base in Yakutiya; it is now training young native scientists.

Scores of young people, sons and daughters of former illiterate nomads have received BS degrees during the last few years and the time is not far off when many Yakuts will be professors and PhD's.

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